

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

15-158

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 6, 2004

To recognize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as one of the most revered Americans of our time as the United States of America recognizes his vast and extraordinary contributions and has dedicated a National Holiday in his honor.

WHEREAS, the January 15th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is celebrated to commemorate his life and legacy including his contributions to peace, justice and equality for all citizens;

WHEREAS, in 1955, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led a successful boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama transit system that resulted in the desegregation of that system and brought national and international attention to the problems of segregation and racial discrimination;

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) that became the central base of operations for the civil rights movement during the late nineteen fifties and sixties;

WHEREAS, on August 28, 1963, in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led more than 200,000 people in a mass demonstration in Washington, D.C., to demand equal justice for all citizens;

WHEREAS, in December 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., became the youngest recipient of the coveted Nobel Peace Prize;

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led the way for passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act through his selfless commitment to inspiring human rights for all people;

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through his dedication to full civil rights for all Americans, was a major force in the passage of the Voting Rights Act, which guarantees that the electoral process is a meaningful exercise in democracy for all people; and

WHEREAS, future generations, who did not witness his contributions, must continue the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ensuring his dream remains alive in the hearts and minds of all Americans.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Resolution of 2004".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia proudly joins the citizens of the District on January 15, 2004 to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and pay tribute to the life of a man whose struggles permanently transformed the social fabric of America.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.